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Professor ALBERT SMITH of Purdue University will spend the months of July and August in Pasadena, acting as consulting engineer in connection with the design of the 100-inch reflecting telescope.

W. S. ADAMS.

July, 1911.

NOTE ON THE DISCOVERY OF COMET *b* 1911 (KIESS).

Comet *b* 1911 was discovered by the writer on a plate taken on the morning of July 6th with the Crocker photographic telescope. The comet was on the very edge of the plate and appeared as a distorted, nebulous object, which might easily have escaped detection but for the faint, tail-like streamer of light attached to it. This led at once to the suspicion that the object was a comet. Examination of the object on the following morning with the 12-inch telescope confirmed this view.

With the aid of the telescope a fine, sharp nucleus and a faint tail were visible. Subsequent photographs taken with the Crocker telescope by Mr. R. S. SHEPPARD, assistant in the Lick Observatory, show the comet to have a streamer tail nearly four degrees in length. The comet is of the seventh magnitude (estimated) and can easily be seen with an opera-glass. It is moving at a uniform rate in a southwesterly direction. At present its position is approximately R. A. $4^h 30^m$, Dec. $+33^\circ.5$.

C. C. KIESS.

LICK OBSERVATORY, July 17, 1911.

PRELIMINARY ELEMENTS AND EPHEMERIS OF COMET *b* 1911 (KIESS).

The orbit is based on observations taken by KIESS at Lick Observatory on July 7th, 11th, and 15th.

T (Perihelion date) 1911, June 30.2827, Gr. M. T.

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \Omega = 158^\circ 46' 29'' \\ \omega = 111 \quad 11 \quad 9 \\ i = 148 \quad 30 \quad 42 \end{array} \right\} \text{Ecliptic 1911.0}$$

$$q = 0.69858$$

EPHEMERIS.

1911 Gr. M. T.	True α	True δ
July 26.5	$4^h 14^m 50^s$	$+30^\circ 4' 2''$
28.5	4 9 46	29 0 12
July 30.5	4 4 2	27 43 51